

# THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

MICHAEL GREHL, Editor

Published by The Memphis Publishing Co.  
495 Union Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38101

JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS, Business Manager

The Memphis Commercial . . . . . Established 1889

The Appeal . . . . . Established 1840

The Avalanche . . . . . Established 1867

Consolidated July 1, 1894

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Monday, July 14, 1980

## Tyranny From Whom?

A MISSISSIPPI group that calls itself American Majority Action reportedly plans to ask the Democratic National Convention platform committee to adopt a plank supporting the repeal of the Voting Rights Act of 1964 as a means to overcome, in its words, "minority tyranny."

The same request was rejected by the Republican platform committee. It won't get anywhere with the Democrats. And it's to be hoped that the group will share the same fate in any similar undertaking.

Nothing is quite so vicious in American politics as an attempt to restrict the vote to a majority of any kind.

The meanness of mind that would deny

the right to vote to a segment of the population because of color would poison and destroy every principle, every value on which this country has been built.

THE STRUGGLE for a nondiscriminatory voting law was long and agonizing. What kind of mentality would even consider reopening those wounds and calling into question the rights of a free people?

A sick and fearful mentality. One that is unsure of itself and of its country. One that wants its own form of tyranny so that its ideas and privileges will never be challenged. And one that is wholly contemptible.

## Crusade Could Backfire

LOUIS WOLF'S goal is to stop the Central Intelligence Agency from interfering "in the internal affairs of independent nations." He pursues that goal by publishing a bulletin that claims to disclose CIA secrets and to name CIA agents.

"To stop the activities you have to identify the people," Wolf explains. Will he stop some of the people, as well?

Last week unidentified gunmen attacked the home of an American Embassy official in Jamaica two days after Wolf's bulletin had named the official as a CIA station chief. No one was hurt.

It's difficult to imagine that Wolf is telling the Soviet Union or other countries where CIA agents are assigned much that they don't already know. Soviet intelligence sources, in particular, are probably at least as good as Wolf's. But the question arises of whether Wolf is exposing American officials to guerrillas, terrorists or common hoodlums looking for an excuse for violence. Some of those he names may not have any connection with the CIA. Has he endan-

gered their lives, as well as activities that have the support of the Carter administration and the oversight committees of Congress?

Partly because of Wolf's work, legislation has been introduced in Congress to ban the naming of espionage agents. There are those who would prefer even more restrictive laws, such as an official secrets act, that would shield covert activities from any effective public scrutiny. Wolf may be contributing to a reaction that is the exact opposite of his goal and the public's interest.

WOLF HAS A RIGHT to freedom of speech and freedom of the press. But some kinds of expression aren't protected by those freedoms — mischievously yelling "fire," for instance, in a crowded theater. If he is indeed endangering lives, as it appears, he may be violating constitutional limits.

In any case, his crusade represents an extremist political philosophy rather than responsible journalism.

*Civil Rights: Furish Amendment*